

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM: YOUTH SHIP CRUISE TO U.S.

PORTS - 1976

1. FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS THE YOUTH COUNTERMEASURES DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS ANNUALLY SENT SEVERAL HUNDRED CAREFULLY SELECTED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ON STUDY CRUISES, CHIEFLY TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

2. SINCE 1976 IS AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL YEAR, THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WISHES TO ARRANGE A CRUISE THAT WILL INCLUDE THREE AMERICAN PORTS, SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES AND HONOLULU, PLUS VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ACAPULCO, MEXICO. FROM 300-350 WORKING YOUTH, AGE 20-25, NORMALLY MAKE THESE CRUISES, WHICH INCLUDE LECTURES AND SEMINARS ON THE COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED AS WELL AS LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION.

3. ABOUT 100 AMERICAN, CANADIAN AND MEXICAN YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE SELECTED, THROUGH JAPANESE CONSULATES-GENERAL IN THE THREE COUNTRIES, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1976 CRUISE. OF THIS NUMBER, HALF WILL BE INVITED TO JAPAN FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS OF ORIENTATION ON JAPAN PRIOR TO START OF CRUISE. THE OTHER 50 YOUTH WOULD REPLACE THEM ON THE CRUISE AT THE SEVERAL PORTS OF

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CALL AND RETURN ON THE SHIP FOR A POST-CRUISE ORI-

ENTATION PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE FIRST GROUP.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE REQUESTS THAT THE THREE AMERICAN CITIES BE CONTACTED FOR ADVICE ON THE BEST TIME FOR THE "YOUTH SHIP" TO VISIT. PREFERRED TIME IS WHEN BICENTENNIAL EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE SO THAT YOUNG PEOPLE MAY OBSERVE FESTIVITIES. WE HAVE SUGGESTED JULY 4 IN AN APPROPRIATE AMERICAN PORT, PROBABLY SAN FRANCISCO, BUT AGREED TO QUERY DEPARTMENT. ANY UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT HAS ON BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE THREE CITIES FROM JULY THROUGH NOVEMBER WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

5. SHIP WOULD STAY 3-4 DAYS IN EACH PORT. TOTAL LENGTH OF CRUISE, TWO MONTHS. CONSULATES-GENERAL OF JAPAN HAVE NOT YET BEEN INFORMED OF PLANS. PRESUMABLY CONSULATES-GENERAL WILL ARRANGE "GOODWILL" PROGRAMS, MEETINGS WITH AMERICAN YOUTH ETC. IN CITIES TO BE VISITED.
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